

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

A vehicle load-carrying bed ~~having~~ includes a generally rectangular bed floor is ~~provided~~. A front wall extends upwardly adjacent a front edge of the bed floor. A first side wall extends upwardly adjacent a first side edge of the bed floor. A second side wall extends upwardly adjacent a second, opposite side edge of the bed floor. A tailgate is positioned along a rear edge of the bed floor and extends between the first and second sidewalls. A dual axis hinge pivotally connects the tailgate to the first side wall for movement about a first axis generally parallel with the rear edge of the bed floor and alternative movement about a second axis generally parallel with a vertical bed edge of the first side wall. The hinge includes a checker for urging the tailgate into preselected positions when the tailgate is moved about the second axis.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

With specific reference to Figure 2, the tailgate 10 is also alternatively able to pivot about a second vertical axis 34 for movement between the closed position and a swing-open position. The second axis 34 is generally parallel with a first lateral edge 36 of the tailgate and a vertical bed edge 38 of the first side wall 20. In the preferred embodiment, the dual mode tailgate 10 is the tailgate described in the commonly owned, copending U.S. patent application 10/663,138 entitled "Improved Frame Structure For Vehicle Tailgate" filed[[    ]] September 16, 2003 concurrently with this application and expressly incorporated herein by reference.